

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

The lifting of cable ownership caps will not only hurt consumers by increasing cable rates (as has already happened since the Telecom Act) and internet access fees (thus widening the digital divide) but will also hurt democracy by putting even further concentrating the number of people who control public dialogue and even further boosting commercial logic in the media. As well, less independent and local content will have access to the cable systems. If Chairman Powell is so serious about deregulation, he should consider deregulating LPFM and work to make the government less influential in public broadcasting.